

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-14. (Canceled)

15-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) A kit comprising a plurality of fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET) hybridization probes comprising:

a first single-stranded oligonucleotide carrying a FRET donor entity and at least one second entity, said second entity being a compound which is capable of quenching fluorescence of said FRET donor entity; and

a second single-stranded oligonucleotide carrying a FRET acceptor entity but not carrying a FRET donor entity.

19. (Currently Amended) The kit plurality of claim 18 ~~1~~, wherein the FRET donor entity and the second entity are carried on adjacent nucleotides of the first oligonucleotide.

20. (Currently Amended) A kit comprising a set of 3 oligonucleotides, comprising a first oligonucleotide and a second oligonucleotide capable of acting as a pair of amplification primers for a template dependent nucleic acid amplification reaction, further characterized in that said first oligonucleotide and a third oligonucleotide are each labeled with one corresponding member of a FRET pair consisting of a FRET donor entity and a FRET acceptor entity,

wherein the oligonucleotide carrying the FRET donor entity further carries is ~~carrying~~ at least one second entity, said second entity being a compound which is capable of quenching fluorescence of said FRET donor entity; and

wherein the oligonucleotide carrying the FRET acceptor entity does not carry a FRET donor entity.

21. (Currently Amended) The kit set of claim 20 3, wherein FRET donor entity and the second entity are carried on adjacent nucleotides of the oligonucleotide carrying the FRET donor entity.

22. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising a nucleic acid sample and the first and second oligonucleotides ~~a pair of hybridization probes~~ according to claim 18 4 or ~~a set of the~~ 3 oligonucleotides according to claim 20 3.

23. (Currently Amended) A kit comprising a pair of hybridization probes according to claim 18 4 or ~~a set of the~~ 3 oligonucleotides according to claim 20 3 and at least one other component selected from a group consisting of a nucleic acid amplification primer, a template dependent nucleic acid polymerase, at least one deoxynucleoside triphosphate and a buffer for template dependent nucleic acid amplification reaction.

24-31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) A kit comprising a plurality of fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET) hybridization probes comprising:

a first single-stranded oligonucleotide carrying a FRET donor entity and a nitroindole moiety capable of quenching fluorescence of said FRET donor entity; and
a second single-stranded oligonucleotide carrying a FRET acceptor entity.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended) The kit plurality of claim 32, wherein the FRET donor entity and the nitroindole moiety ~~second entity~~ are carried on adjacent nucleotides of the first oligonucleotide.

35. (Currently Amended) A kit comprising a set of 3 oligonucleotides, comprising a first oligonucleotide and a second oligonucleotide capable of acting as a pair of amplification primers for a template dependent nucleic acid amplification reaction, further characterized in that said first oligonucleotide and a third oligonucleotide are each labeled with one corresponding member of a FRET pair consisting of a FRET donor entity and a FRET acceptor entity,

wherein the oligonucleotide carrying the FRET donor entity further carries is ~~carrying~~ a nitroindole moiety capable of quenching fluorescence of said FRET donor entity .

36. (Canceled)

37. (Currently Amended) The kit set of claim 35, wherein FRET donor entity and the nitroindole moiety second entity ~~are~~ are carried on adjacent nucleotides of the oligonucleotide carrying the FRET donor entity.

38. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising a nucleic acid sample and a pair of hybridization probes according to claim 32 33 or ~~a set of the 3~~ oligonucleotides according to claim 35.

39. (Currently Amended) A kit comprising a pair of hybridization probes according to claim 32 33 or ~~a set of the 3~~ oligonucleotides according to claim 35 and at least one other component selected from a group consisting of a nucleic acid amplification primer a template dependent nucleic acid polymerase, at least one deoxynucleoside triphosphate and a buffer for template dependent nucleic acid amplification reaction.